* National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP) targets employment for at least 100 days to every rural household and provides income security to agricultural workers in lean agricultural season.

* Bharat Nirman launched in 2005 has been envisaged to improve rural connectivity to promote integrated national market for rural people to be able to meet each other's demand.

* Provision of minimum nutritional support to the poor through subsidized foodgrains distributed through targeted public distribution system.

* Efforts are on to turn the focus of commercial banks, regional rural banks and cooperative banks towards providing credit especially production credit to rural and farmers' households at concessional rate of interest.

* Pubic-Private partnership is encouraged in the development/strengthening of agricultural marketing infrastructure, grading and standardization.

NCF recommendations

251. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission of Farmers, headed by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan had submitted its final report;

(b) if so, whether the report has suggested for setting up a National Food Security and Sovereignty Board under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister;

(c) the other main points mentioned by the Commission;

(d) by what time a National Policy for Farmers is likely to be approved and announced; and

(e) whether Government would clear Rs. 16978.69 crores relief package for farmers in 31 districts across four States plagued by distress deaths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Fifth and Final Report includes Revised Draft National Policy for Farmers and contains recommendations relating to improving livelihood opportunities and income of farmers; attracting and retaining youth in agriculture; improving the competitiveness of Indian agriculture, and strengthening the coping capacity of farmer under an uncertain trade environment. The Revised Draft National Policy for Farmers recommended by the Commission is under consideration of the Government.

(e) Yes, Sir.

Assistance for dairy development in Madhya Pradesh

†252. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of amount to be spent on Dairy Development out of the funds allocated for Agricultural Development during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the amount proposed to be allocated to Madhya Pradesh in this regard; and

(c) the amount allocated to Madhya Pradesh for Dairy Development from 2004—2006?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Presently, there is no fixed percentage for Dairy Development out of the funds allocated for Agricultural Development. However, the percentage of amount to be spent on Dairy Development out of the funds allocated for Agricultural development during Eleventh Five Year Plan depends upon the size of Eleventh Five Year Plan determined by the Planning Commission.

(c) No State-wise allocation is made under dairy development schemes of this Department. However, an amount of Rs. 253.26 lakh and Rs. 813.19 lakh was released to Madhya Pradesh for dairy development during 2004-05 & 2005-06.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.